

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS GUADALAJARA 1532

ATTENTION MR. DAVIS. SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MX (REDPATH, JOHN LEE)

SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO (JOHN
LEE REDPATH)

REF: STATE 194199

SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED IN MORELIA, MICHOACAN ON 22 JANUARY, 1975, AND CHARGED WITH FRAUD (PASSING BAD CHECKS). CONGEN NOTIFIED OF ARREST BY MORELIA AUTHORITIES ON SAME DAY. STATE NOTIFIED IN UNCLAS GUADALAJARA 0158. REDPATH DID NOT COMPLAIN OF TORTURE AT THE HANDS OF ARRESTING AUTHORITIES UNTIL 14 AUGUST WHEN HE FIRST MENTIONED IT TO A VISITING CONSULAR OFFICER. AT THAT TIME, HE STATED THAT HE HAD SIGNED A CONFESSION AFTER BEING TORTURED. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSED SINCE ARRIVING AT THE PENITENTIARY. REDPATH COULD GIVE NO SPECIFICS CONCERNING THE TORTURE AND NO REASON FOR WAITING 7 MONTHS BEFORE ALLEGING MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST. HE DID NOT REQUEST THAT A COMPLAINT BE MADE. IN A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY A CONSULAR OFFICER ON NOVEMBER 11TH, SUBJECT STATED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS "TOO LATE" FOR A COMPLAINT TO BE MADE REGARDING TORTURE.

THE FILE INDICATES THAT SINCE FEBRUARY 4TH, REDPATH HAS CLAIMED THAT HE IS WANTED IN THE UNITED STATES ON VARIOUS CHARGES. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SINCE THAT DATE, HE HAS REQUESTED EXTRADITION
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TO STAND TRAIL IN THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO CONGEN'S

LEGAL ATTACHE, NO OUTSTANDING FEDERAL WARRANTS FOR REDPATH EXIST IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ONLY SPECIFIC CRIME THAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO POST'S ATTENTION, IS REDPATH'S OWN ASSERTION THAT HE STOLE A FORD CAMPER IN NEVADA IN 1973. THIS INFO WAS ALSO PASSED TO THE LEGATT.

ON 21 JULY, REDPATH WAS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. DUE TO THE LENGTH OF HIS SENTENCE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SECURE A "FIANZA". AT THIS TIME, HIS PUBLIC DEFENDER ATTORNEY IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE HIS SENTENCE REDUCED TO UNDER FIVE YEARS, THUS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR SUBJECT TO SECURE A FIANZA. SO FAR THE ATTORNEY HAS NOT MET WITH SUCCESS.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, REDPATH FIRST CAME TO THE POST'S ATTENTION ON APRIL 13, 1974. AT THAT TIME, HE PHONED TH CONSULAR DUTY OFFICER TO REPORT THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM "UNDERWORLD SOURCES" THAT KIDNAPPED HERMOSILLO VICE CONSUL JOHN PATTERSON WAS BEING HELD IN GUADALAJARA. ON APRIL 29TH, HE AGAIN PHONED THE DUTY OFFICER TO REPORT THAT PATTERSON WAS BEING HELD IN CULIACAN, SINALOA. HE OFFERED TO LEAD THE DUTY OFFICER TO EXACT LOCATION, BUT NEVER CAME INTO THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO FOLLOW-UP ON HIS INVITATION. ON EACH OCCASION, THE PATTERSON INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO THE EMBASSY AND RELAYED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TASK FORCE. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY, REDPATH HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM AS WELL AND HIS LEADS HAD ALREADY BEEN PURSUED. THE SECOND CALL WAS THE LAST THAT POST HEARD FROM REDPATH UNTIL HIS ARREST LAST JANUARY.

SUBJECT IS CONFINED 200 MILES FROM GUADALAJARA AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY IN MORELIA, MICHOACAN. DUE TO POST'S FORMER LACK OF TRAVEL FUNDS, REDPATH HAS BEEN VISITED BY A CONSULAR OFFICER APPROXIMATELY EVERY 60 DAYS SINCE TIME OF ARREST. TRAVEL FUNDS NOW PERMIT REGULAR MONTHLY VISITS.
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